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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/741,680	12/15/2000	Vipin Samar	OR00-14001	6541

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PARK, VAUGHAN & FLEMING LLP  
508 SECOND STREET  
SUITE 201  
DAVIS, CA 95616

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAM LINH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2171

DATE MAILED: 09/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/741,680	<b>Applicant(s)</b> SAMAR, VIPIN	
	<b>Examiner</b> Cam-Linh T. Nguyen	<b>Art Unit</b> 2171	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:  |

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

1. Applicant's amendment to the specification is acknowledged. Consequently, objection to the abstract is withdrawn.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1- 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Schneider et al (U.S. 6,105,027).

♦ As per claim 1, 9, 17,

Schneider discloses a system for control access data in a database comprising:

- A requestor or user is requesting access to data in database (See Fig. 1). The requestor can be any type of user. It can be a database administrator, an owner of the file, or a user with access right (Col. 10 line 7 – 9).
- "The requesting access to data" See col. 2 line 11 - 12
- "Determining if the object is a sensitive object that is associated with security functions". Schneider teaches that in order to access to the object, it must determine the sensitivity level of the information (Col. 15 line 38 – 49), and the

sensitivity level of a resource is simply a value. The greater the need to protect the information resource, the higher its sensitivity level (Col. 9 line 12 – 16).

- "The object" corresponds to the "resource" in fig. 14 - 15, where the "resource" can include "the resource's sensitive level, a description of the resource,... a hidden flag which indicates whether Intramap should display the resource to users" (Col. 29 lines 63 – col. 30 lines 5).
- "If the object is not a sensitive object, and if the command is received from a normal database administrator... allowing the administrative function to proceed" See col. 9 line 3 – 11.
- "If the object is a sensitive object, and if the command is received from a normal system administrator, disallowing the administrative function" See col. 9 line 3 – 11. Fig. 6 provides the requirements for access certain type of data (Col. 18 line 1 – col. 19 line 45).

♦ As per claim 2, 10, 18, Schneider discloses:

- "A request to perform an operation" corresponds to "a command to perform an administrative function" See Fig. 19, col. 35 line 49 – 52.

♦ As per claim 3 - 5, 11 – 13, 19 – 21, Schneider discloses:

Schneider teaches that the user must use the encryption key, which associated with the message, to decrypt the message (Col. 10 line 29 – 37). Therefore, the encryption key is stored along with a table containing the data item.

♦ As per claim 6, 14, 22, Schneider discloses:

- "A sensitive table containing sensitive data in the database system" See Fig. 6.

Fig. 6 is a table used in defining the relationship between sensitivity levels and authentication and encryption techniques. This table represents the requirements for a sensitive user of the database system in order to gain access to sensitive data.

♦ As per claim 7, 15, 23, Schneider discloses:

- "Allowing the security officer to perform the administrative function". As stated in Col. 13 line 61 – 63, an administrator that has control a certain level of resources tree also controls all lower levels. Therefore, if a "security officer" holding a top secret level as shown in Fig. 6, this officer definitely can access lower level such as public level where object is not a sensitive object.

♦ As per claim 8, 16, 24, Schneider discloses:

Schneider teaches about how to protect a sensitive data stored in the database. Therefore, the database must include a number of sensitive data items, and only specific sensitive users are allowed to access a given data item as shown in Fig. 6.

### ***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 07/21/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the Schneider reference does not disclose "specific rows containing sensitive data within a table to be marked as sensitive". Examiner disagreed.

First, Applicant did not claim "specific rows containing sensitive data within a table to be marked as sensitive" in the invention. In fact, claim 1 only includes "sensitive object can include a sensitive row..."

Next, referring to Col. 29 lines 63 – col. 30 lines 5, where the “resource” can include “the resource’s sensitive level, a description of the resource... a hidden flag which indicates whether Intramap should display the resource to users”. Clearly, the Schneider reference does disclose the limitation of the invention.

***Conclusion***

3. Applicant’s amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cam-Linh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305- 1951. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic, can be reached on (703) 308- 1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703- 746- 7239.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703- 305- 3900.

Cam-Linh Nguyen  
Art Unit 2171

LN



SAFET METJAHIC  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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